



Montgomery County Council

From the Office of Councilmember Howard Denis

For Immediate Release

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Statement of Councilmember Howard Denis regarding General Assembly action to end "out of cycle" property tax increases.

I applaud the vote of the Maryland General Assembly to reaffirm the triennial property tax assessments policy and end the unfair practice by Montgomery County of appealing property tax assessments at mid-cycle. I introduced companion legislation on the County level after meeting with many families effected by the County's practice, and testified before the State Senate for enactment of the state measure.

Montgomery County has been the only county in the state that challenges property tax assessments in the middle of a three-year cycle. This practice is unfair to homeowners and is tax gouging. As a result of the County's actions, many new families have been forced to pay sharply higher tax bills, sometimes even after they have paid a portion of their property taxes. Great disparities in property tax assessments are also created in many neighborhoods by this action.

The bills, sponsored by a majority of the Montgomery County Senate and House delegations, received the overwhelming support of the Assembly.

I now call on Governor Glendenning to sign the bill and restore the faith of Montgomery County families in the fairness of the State's property tax policy.

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